



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 10, 2009

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

**COMMENTS FILED ON EVALUATING HEALTH RISKS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES
(RELATES TO ITEM #3 OF JUNE 2, 2009 BOARD AGENDA)**

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), 16 other entities and the County joined together in filing expansive and comprehensive comments regarding the creation of a National Broadband Plan with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These comments represent a vision of what America's broadband future can become by adopting progressive policies in the public interest. The comments, which are consistent with County policies, cover a wide range of issues, from how to define broadband capability and wireless service issues to open networks.

In response to your Board's June 2, 2009 directive related to Item 3 on that agenda, the County successfully negotiated the inclusion of language in the FCC filing that addresses the importance of the evaluation of health concerns related to low-frequency electromagnetic and radio frequency emissions. The Attachment contains Section VII (C) regarding *"Wireless Service Policies: Prudence Suggests the Commission Evaluate Potential Health Risks of Low-Frequency Electromagnetic and Radio Frequency Emission,"* for your information.

If you would like to review the full text of the comments, it can be found at the following link: http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520220240. If you would like a hard copy of this document (79 pages) or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Herman of the CEO Cable & Telecommunications office at (213) 974-6807 or sherman@ceo.lacounty.gov. We appreciate the leadership of your Board on this important matter.

WTF:SH
GK:SH:ft

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only

Portion of Comments filed by County of Los Angeles and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors (NATOA) et al to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the matter of A National Broadband Plan for Our Future

VII. WIRELESS SERVICE POLICIES

C. Prudence Suggests the Commission Evaluate Potential Health Risks of Low-Frequency Electromagnetic and Radio Frequency Emissions in the Near Future, Either as Part of This or an Additional Proceeding

Commenters urge the Commission to evaluate the potential health impact of low-frequency electromagnetic and radio frequency (RF) wireless emissions. The Commission has not addressed this issue in a number of years.³⁹ Some of the research evaluated during the earlier proceeding is now more than a decade old.

Much has changed in that decade. In the interim years since that research and proceeding, the United States has seen dramatic increases in wireless use. Indeed, a survey released in May 2009 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that for the first time the number of households in the U.S. with only a wireless phone exceeds the number of households with only a landline phone. It is reasonable to expect wireless use to continue to increase as the nation's wireless carriers deploy "4G" wireless broadband.

In light of this changed wireless environment and the passage of time, Commenters believe that the Commission should evaluate new studies and analyze global best practices regarding the health impact of low-frequency electromagnetic and RF radiation, either in the context of this proceeding or by initiating a proceeding dedicated to that topic. The Commission should also coordinate as appropriate with other expert agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Wireless is likely to play a substantial role in the nation's broadband future and in the Commission's National Broadband Plan – prudence suggests that now, rather than later, is the right time for an evaluation of whether there exist potential health risks.

³⁹ See *In the Matter of Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields*, ET Docket No. 03-137, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released June 26, 2003. Commenters note that no final order was released in this proceeding.